



Action in Agroforestry

March 2015
Vol. 6, No. 3

Michael Gold and
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INBio visitors lead seminar, talks with UMCA

Allan Jimenez-Ardon (left) and Adrian A. Pinto-Tomas, of INBio, lead a roundtable discussion with UMCA.

Representatives from INBio, a non-profit Costa Rican NGO dedicated to the preservation of tropical biodiversity, visited MU and the Center for Agroforestry in early March. INBio has three major foci: health, energy and agriculture. The purpose of their visit was to create a long-term collaboration with MU focused on pharmaceutical-drug discovery, energy-biofuel development, microbial ecology and agricultural biotechnology. Allan Jimenez-Ardon

(INBio Bioprospecting Coordinator) and Adrian Alberto Pinto-Tomas (Environmental Microbiologist), gave a joint seminar on their experiences with bioprospecting and how it contributes to biodiversity conservation.

Hosted by UMCA's Dr. Chung-Ho Lin, their visit included the MU Life Sciences Center, Business Incubator, and Proteomics, Metabolomics, DNA & Bioinformatics core facilities among others.

Report from MOSES

LaCrosse, Wisconsin, in late February usually means snow. UMCA's Gregory Ormsby Mori found plenty of it and subzero temperatures during his trip to the MOSES conference. With attendance over 3,500, he viewed MOSES as a premier organic agriculture event.

While there, he attended several sessions on cover crops and soil conservation. He was impressed with Jeff Schahczenski, of the National Center for Appropriate Technology, who held a workshop on "Whole Farm Revenue Protection for Organic Producers."

Gregory interacted extensively with the Farmer Veteran Coalition, and with individuals who are working with elderberry and the Elderberry Growers Cooperative. He also promoted the upcoming third Agroforestry Academy as well as UMCA's agroforestry Masters program while there.

REGISTER NOW: 2015 Agroforestry Academy

This year's third Agroforestry Academy will be held from July 20-24, 2015 in Columbia, Mo. The week-long training includes classroom workshops, on-farm visits and practical agroforestry planning and design, led by experienced trainers. Advanced training is provided on the five recognized temperate zone agroforestry practices integrated with options for bioenergy, marketing, economic, policy, social dimensions and environmental services. Full registration (including lodging and food) is \$1,000/person (limited scholarships available). For more information, email Michael Gold at goldm@missouri.edu or Gregory Ormsby Mori at ormsbyg@missouri.edu.

UMCA adds two watersheds to MRBI monitoring efforts

There is a strong consensus that a major cause of the Gulf of Mexico's (GoM) hypoxic zone "low oxygen dead zone" is attributed to nutrients coming from the Mississippi River watershed. In 2000, the USEPA Science Advisory Board developed an Action Plan to reduce both N and P loads by 45% aiming to reduce the hypoxic zone to 5,000 km² by 2015.

To help solve these water quality problems, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has developed the Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watershed Initiative (MRBI). The focus of the MRBI is to reduce N and P loadings to the Gulf through adoption of multiple conservation practices in agricultural watersheds in the Mississippi-Missouri Watershed Basins. NRCS has approved a number of conservation practices designed to avoid, trap, and control pollutants (www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/mrbi/mrbi.html). The objectives of the MRBI are: 1) Avoid, control and/or trap nutrient runoff; 2) Maintain agricultural productivity; 3) Improve wildlife habitat; 4) Protect restore and enhance wetlands; and

5) Form partnerships. Led by Dr. Ranjith Udawatta, the Center for Agroforestry currently monitors water quality and evaluates effects of conservation practices/systems and activities implemented through the project on a field or edge-of-field scale in 10 watersheds in NE and NC Missouri. Two new watersheds will be monitored for a 9-year period from 2014 to 2022 in a paired design with crop rotation and cover crop practices. Runoff samples, collected after each measurable runoff event, are analyzed for sediment, total P (TP), dissolved P, total N (TN), and nitrate-N.

Conservation options assessed include terraces, nutrient management, crop rotation, tillage, grass waterways, and cover crops. The evaluation compares previous land use against the current land use with conservation practices to understand environmental benefits and how these adoptions help reduce hypoxia in the GoM. Watershed simulation models integrated into GIS will examine the effects of these practices on larger geographic regions and evaluate long-term benefits on larger watersheds.

NAAC volumes now available online

Initiated in 1989, the inches-thick biennial North American Agroforestry Conference Proceedings books are heading online. NAAC Proceedings contain conference details, abstracts and published papers. Three Proceedings (the 11th, 12th and 13th) have now been uploaded in the MOspace Digital Library. These editions, dating from

2009, 2011 and 2013 (the most recent), can be found here: <http://dl.mospace.umsystem.edu/mu/islandora/object/mu%3A90377>

Links to the MOspace Digital Library can also be found on the UMCA website under "Conference Proceedings." The hope is that the 1st through 10th editions will be uploaded soon.

Upcoming Events

March 18, 2015 —
New! Agroforestry in Action Webinar Series.
11 a.m. (CDT)

Roger Leakey, Intl. Tree Foundation: "Agroforestry Delivering Multifunctional Agriculture: Can We Heal an Ailing Planet?"

To register: <https://agroforestry.adobeconnect.com/rogerleakey/event/registration.html>

March 20, 2015 —
Last call for abstracts for oral/poster presentations for the 14th North American Agroforestry Conference.

Please send abstracts to: agroforestry2015@gmail.com

April 10, 2015 —
Last day for early registration for the North American Agroforestry Conference.

Register: <https://web.extension.illinois.edu/registration/?RegistrationID=11440>

April 11, 2015 —
Agroforestry workshop at the Allen Project Site; Laurie, Mo.
Information: www.centerforagroforestry.org/events/2015AgroforestryWorkshop.pdf